

ADDENDUM TO THE FACT SHEET  
FOR STATE WASTE DISCHARGE  
PERMIT NO. ST 6122  
April 2010

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Facility: National Frozen Foods  
188 Sturdevant Road  
Chehalis, Washington 98532-0479

II. APPLICATION REVIEW

National Frozen Foods Corporation submitted a permit renewal application to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) on March 20, 2009, for permit reissuance, and Ecology accepted it on March 24, 2009. Ecology has reviewed the application, discharge monitoring reports, and other facility information. Ecology has determined the following:

- National Frozen Foods Corporation has, for the most part, adhered to terms, conditions, requirements and schedules of compliance of the current permit with a few exceptions. National Frozen Foods failed to submit their discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) on six occasions during the five year period. Ecology assessed a penalty against National Frozen Foods for these violations. National Frozen Foods did not submit their DMRs for the following months and a quarter:  
  
1) September 2007    2) March 2008    3) June 2008  
4) July 2008    5) August 2008    6) Second Quarter (April May June) 2008
- Ecology has up-to date information on the National Frozen Foods waste treatment practices, production levels; and the nature, content, volume, and frequency of its discharge.
- The discharge meets applicable effluent standards and limits, ground water quality standards, and other legally applicable requirements.

III. PERMIT REAUTHORIZATION

When Ecology reauthorizes a discharge permit it essentially reissues the permit with the existing limits, terms and conditions. Alternatively, when Ecology renews a permit it re-evaluates the impact of the discharge on the ground water which may lead to changes in the limits, terms and conditions of the permit.

This fact sheet addendum accompanies the permit, which Ecology proposes to reauthorize for the discharge of wastewater to land application location (Appendix A- Figure 1). The previous fact sheet explains the basis for the discharge limitations and conditions of the reauthorized permit and remains as part of the administrative record.

Ecology determined it does not need to change the existing permit requirements, including discharge limits and monitoring, to protect the ground water quality. The previous fact sheet

addressed conditions and issues at the facility at the time when Ecology issued the previous permit in November 18, 2005. Since the issuance of the current permit, Ecology has not received any additional information which indicates that environmental impacts from the discharge warrant a complete renewal of the permit. The reauthorized permit is virtually identical to the previous permit issued on November 18, 2005, with a few clarifications.

Ecology reviewed inspections and assessed compliance of the facility's discharge with the terms and conditions in the previous permit and determined that it should not rank the facility as a high priority for permit renewal. Ecology assigns a high priority for permit renewals in situations where ground water quality would benefit from a more stringent permit during the next five-year cycle.

The permit reauthorization process, along with the renewal of high priority permits, allows Ecology to reissue permits in a timely manner and minimize the number of active permits that have passed their expiration dates. For permit reissuance planning purposes, Ecology follows a system of ranking that considers the benefit gained by renewing a permit rather than reauthorizing a permit during its annual permit planning process. Ecology assesses each permit that is expiring and due for reissuance and compares it with other permits due for reissuance. Ecology notifies the public and seeks input after it has tentatively established the initial draft ranking of the permits it plans to renew and those it plans to reauthorize. Ecology considers all relevant comments and suggestions before it makes a final decision.

Ecology carried over the discharge limits and conditions in effect at the time of expiration of the previous permit to this reauthorized permit with a few clarifications. Ecology only changed the submittal dates for reports from those in the previous permit. Ecology removed the completed report requirements that do not require additional or continued assessment. It adjusted the dates for the other standard compliance and submittal requirements that it carried over from the past permit into this reauthorized permit. Ecology considered these reports necessary in the previous permit and no information has come forward to cause it to reconsider.

The proposed draft permit explains and clarifies some of the permit condition requirements. The clarifications are as follows in S1-A, B, C, E and S6-C:

**Special Condition S1-A, Page 6, Table 2, Agronomic limitations**

<b>PARAMETERS</b>	<b>MAXIMUM (EXISTING)</b>	<b>MAXIMUM (PROPOSED)</b>
Total Dissolved Solids	As approved from the annual irrigation and crop management plan.	No change
Nitrogen	200 lbs/acre or as approved from annual irrigation and crop management plan.	200 lbs/acre for each field or as approved from annual irrigation and crop management plan.
BOD <sub>5</sub>	100 lbs/acre/day or as approved from the annual irrigation and crop management plan.	100 lbs/acre/day for each field or as approved from the annual irrigation and crop management plan.

**Special Condition S1-B (Groundwater Monitoring), Page 6**

**Quarterly Monitoring (October – December):** Due to the Chehalis River flooding, Ecology has inserted the following language in the proposed draft permit for the fourth quarter sampling each year:

*“The Chehalis River is flood prone, frequently experiencing floods that interfere with groundwater sampling during late November or December. The Permittee must complete 4<sup>th</sup> quarter groundwater monitoring and sampling during October or early November (before November 15<sup>th</sup>), prior to the onset of heavy fall/winter rains and subsequent flooding.”*

**Special Condition S1-C (Soil Monitoring), Page 9**

Permit Language (Existing)	Permit Language (Proposed)
The Permittee shall perform soil monitoring on the irrigation lands twice per year or within 10 days of April 1 prior wastewater application and October 1 <sup>st</sup> after the final wastewater application of the season.	The Permittee must perform soil monitoring on the irrigation lands twice per year. Spring (March to April) sampling must occur prior to application of any fertilizer or wastewater. Fall (October to November) sampling must occur at the end of the growing season after the last wastewater application but prior to the onset of heavy fall/winter rains.

**Special Condition S1 E (Surface Water Monitoring), Page 11**

The proposed draft permit has added the following in response to the Permittee’s proposed alternate river measuring locations.

**Table 9: Surface Water Sampling Locations**

Monitoring Point	Description
SW-2	Mellen Street Bridge
SW-3	Highway 6 Bridge

The Permittee must inspect and maintain the measuring locations or staff gages after each major flood event.

Surface water must be monitored in the Chehalis River according to the following schedule.

**Table 10: Surface Water Monitoring at SW-2, and SW-3**

Parameter	Units	Report Only	Sampling Frequency	Sample Type
Water Level	Feet above MSL	Report	Quarterly <sup>a</sup>	Measurement
<sup>a</sup> Quarterly is defined as January-March, April-June, July-September, October-December. Water levels shall be measured during the same time period as quarterly ground water monitoring well water level measurements and reported on the same DMRs as the associated groundwater monitoring data.				

**Special Condition S6-C (Additional Hydrogeologic Characterization), Page 17**

Ecology has clarified the draft permit Special Condition S6. deleting certain sections of completed work and proposing the following changes in the draft permit to address Permittee proposed alternative locations and ground water monitoring for proposed new land application field No. 7:

#### Ground Water Monitoring Wells for Field No.7

The Permittee shall complete the following hydrogeologic work to characterize the ground water quality and establish a ground water monitoring network at Field 7. If unexpected conditions require different well locations than planned, the Permittee must obtain approval from Ecology prior to well installation. The Work shall include the following work elements:

- Install a minimum of three new ground water monitoring wells for land application Field No. 7, at the approximate locations shown on Figure 2. These wells must be completed with the screened interval across the water table, following the recommendations in the *Implementation Guidance for the Ground Water Quality Standards*, publication # 96-02.  
[\[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/9602.html\]](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/9602.html) The wells for Field No. 7 must include:
  - At least one upgradient (i.e. background) well that is not affected by National Frozen Foods wastewater land application, and;
  - At least two downgradient wells that will measure the ground water quality downgradient from the wastewater land application fields.
- Survey the wellhead elevations of the new monitoring wells to the same datum as the existing monitoring network for the other land application fields. Provide geologic logs developed during well drilling and construction diagrams for each well.
- Conduct insitu hydrologic testing (slug tests or short term pumping tests) at each monitoring well. These data should be evaluated to estimate the distribution of hydraulic conductivity in the shallow aquifer.
- Collect background ground water quality samples prior to the beginning of wastewater land application. Commence quarterly ground water monitoring for all the parameters required for MW-2A, MW-2C, MW-2D, MW-2E, MW-2F and MW-3B. Analytical results from the ground water monitoring samples must be reported on quarterly DMR report.

All drilling and well installation must meet the requirements the Minimum Standards for Construction and Maintenance of Wells Chapter 173-160 WAC. Prior to initiating field activities NFF should prepare a detailed work plan that describes the methods that will be used to complete this work. The plan shall be submitted to Ecology for review within three months of the effective date of this permit. The monitoring well installations, well surveys and hydrologic testing must be completed by **June 2011 and the required information shall be included in the Annual Hydrogeological Report due July 15, 2011.**

#### Staff Gages

In 2005 Ecology required the installation of three staff gages in the Chehalis River adjacent to the land application fields to provide the water level elevations of the Chehalis River. The Permittee proposed alternate locations to measure Chehalis River levels at bridges upstream and downstream of the land applications fields. The alternate locations are acceptable as long as they provide river elevations with acceptable accuracy to determine the ground water / surface water interactions. If the alternate locations fail to provide useful data at the required accuracy, Ecology may require the installation of staff gauges adjacent to the application fields.

Ecology must public notice the availability of the draft reauthorized permit at least 30 days before it reissues the permit [Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-220-050]. Ecology invites you to review and comment on its decision to reauthorize the permit (see Appendix B-Public Involvement for more detail on the Public Notice procedures).

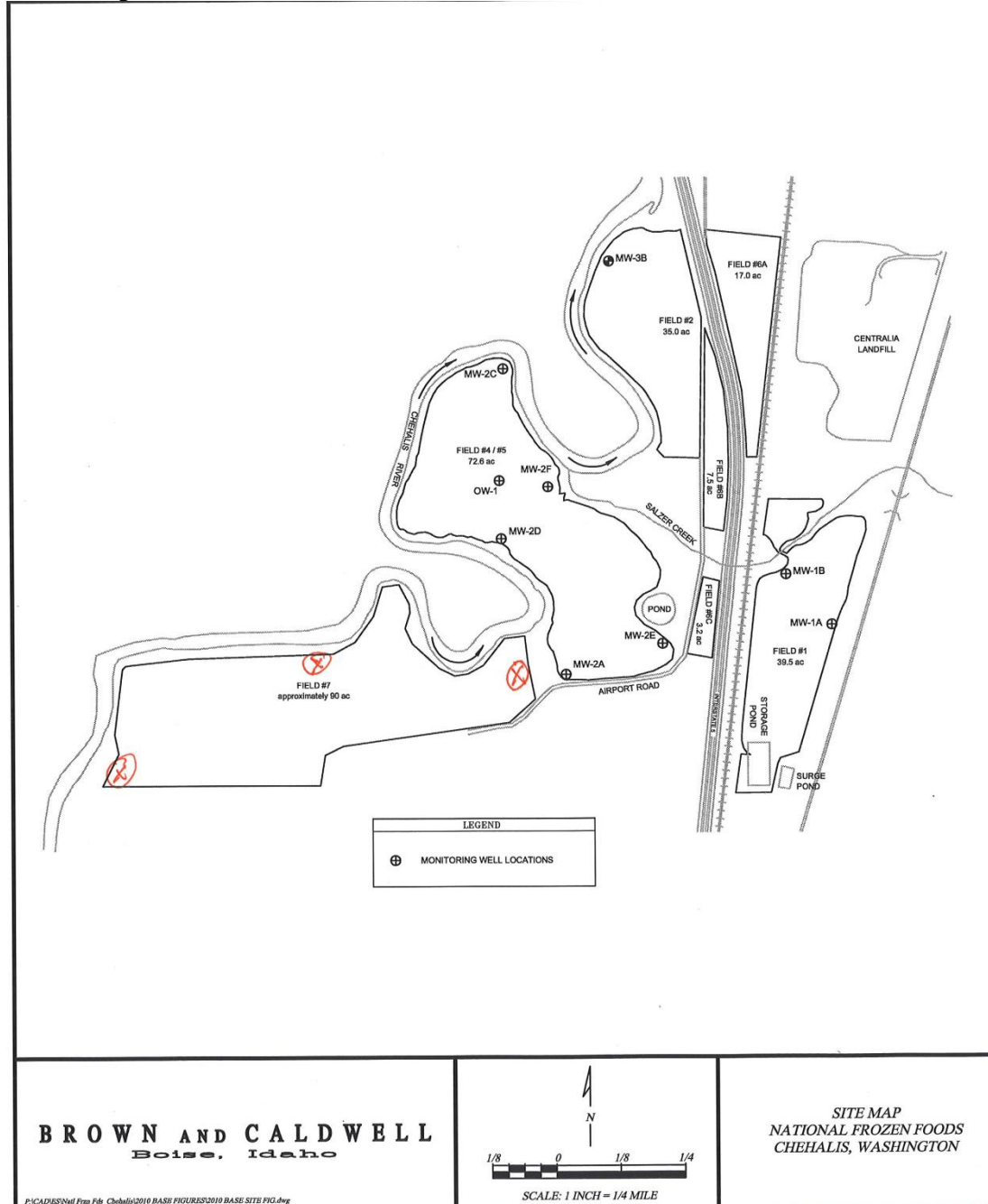
After the public comment period has closed, Ecology will prepare a response to comments document that it will attach to this fact sheet addendum. The response to comments will include the resultant changes to the permit and either address each comment individually or summarize the substantive comments and respond. Ecology sends a copy of the response to comments to all parties who submitted comments. Ecology will include the response to comments in this fact sheet addendum.

#### IV. RECOMMENDATION FOR PERMIT ISSUANCE

Ecology proposes to reissue this permit for five years.

## APPENDIX A

Figure 1



## **APPENDIX B--PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION**

Ecology proposes to reissue a permit to National Frozen Foods. The permit includes wastewater discharge limits and other conditions. This fact sheet addendum describes the facility and Ecology's reasons for reauthorizing the permit conditions.

Ecology placed a Public Notice of Application on June 4, 2009, and June 11, 2009, in the *Daily Chronicle* to inform the public about the submitted application and to invite comment on the reissuance of this permit.

Ecology will place a Public Notice of Draft on date in *Daily Chronicle* to inform the public and to invite comment on the proposed draft State Waste Discharge permit and fact sheet addendum.

The Notice –

- Tells where copies of the draft Permit and Fact Sheet are available for public evaluation (a local public library, the closest Regional or Field Office, posted on our website.).
- Offers to provide the documents in an alternate format to accommodate special needs.
- Urges people to submit their comments, in writing, before the end of the Comment Period
- Tells how to request a public hearing of comments about the proposed State Waste Discharge Permit.
- Explains the next step(s) in the permitting process.

Ecology has published a document entitled **Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting** which is available on our website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0307023.html>.

You may obtain further information from Ecology by telephone, **407-6280**, or by writing to the permit writer at the address listed below.

Water Quality Permit Coordinator  
Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office  
P.O. Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

The authors of this permit and fact sheet are Aziz Mahar and John Stormon

### **Appendix C – Responses Comments**

**On February 10, 2010, Steve Wilson from Brown and Coldwell, consultant to National Frozen Food submitted the following comments.**

**Comment 1:**

The Table reference to well 3A should be deleted. This requirement was waived due to planned relocation of the road east of field 2. Well 3B was installed and the location is shown on the site plan. I believe coordinates were provided but if not, NFF can get them to DOE.

**Response 1:**

Well 3A has been deleted from the permit. Coordinates for MW-3B and OW-1 are inserted in Table 3 of the permit.

**Comment 2:**

Section S.7 – We have reviewed the data for 2009 from existing surface water monitoring points and find that it appears adequate. This requirement should be reconsidered. Installation of staff gages is problematic because frequent flooding is damaging. Readings from bridges has demonstrated that this reach of the river is flat during the low flow season.

**Response 2:**

Ecology has made the changes you requested in the permit and fact sheet addendum.

**Comment 3:**

New property – National has acquired a new field on airport road. To avoid the need for permit modification we would like to include this field in the permit renewal. Information about the new field is attached. There are no plans to increase flows so this field will result in a reduction in irrigation to other fields.

**Response 3:**

Ecology reviewed the information on a new field that National Frozen Food has leased from the **Chehalis – Centralia Airport**. National Frozen Food has proposed to include this new field in its land application area (Figure 1). Ecology has determined that there will be revised Public Notice of the Draft Permit (PNOP) due to the addition of the new field.